

Jefferson to John Adams On Skepticism (Pyrrhonism)

August 15, 1820

Post by "Cassius" of June 21, 2018 at 11:17 AM

Thomas Jefferson to John Adams: "Rejecting all organs of information therefore but my senses, I rid myself of the Pyrrhonisms with which an indulgence in speculations hyperphysical and antiphysical so uselessly occupy and disquiet the mind. A single sense may indeed be sometimes deceived, but rarely; and never all our senses together, with their faculty of reasoning. They evidence realities; and there are enough of these for all the purposes of life, without plunging into the fathomless abyss of dreams & phantasms. I am satisfied, and sufficiently occupied with the things which are, without tormenting or troubling myself about those which may indeed be, but of which I have no evidence. I am sure that I really know many, many, things, and none more surely than that I love you with all my heart, and pray for the continuance of your life until you shall be tired of it yourself."

[August 15, 1820 at Founders.gov](#)

" I am sure that I really know many, many, things....." ... Probably not just a slam at Pyrrho, but at Socrates himself --> https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/I_know_that_I_know_nothing